

TITLE: NECESSARY WRAPPERS?

GRADE LEVEL: K-5

GOAL: Students will realize that large amounts of packaging may be used to wrap products they buy.

MATERIALS: Packages of candy, lunchables, or individually packaged snacks, etc.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Divide students into small groups.
2. Pass out one of the packages to each child (or group, if necessary).
3. Ask each child (or group) to carefully unwrap the food without tearing the wrappers.
4. Have each group create a poster by gluing wrappers on a piece of construction paper in a pattern. Glue wrappers in groups of 5 or 10 so they can be easily counted.
5. Ask students to guess how many wrappers there are, then count them. Don't forget the outer wrapping and layers of packaging. Ask: If you ate one of these prepackaged foods per week, how many wrappers would you have in a year?
6. Ask students why there are so many wrappers. Identify the possible purpose of each. Ask: If you were going to package this food, how would you do it using less packaging?
7. Ask children to identify the source of raw materials for packaging; i.e., the plastic, aluminum foil, paper, etc.
8. Ask students to think of other things their families buy that come in packages.
9. Ask: If we reduce the amount of packaging, will we reduce the amount of garbage?

PRE AND POST TEST QUESTIONS:

Where does packaging go if you throw it away?